

## Message Text

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51

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 /082 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ W: ORAGGREY: LSR

3/10/73 EXT 20902

APPROVED BY AF/ W - O. RUDOLPH AGGREY

AF/ P - MR. PELTIER ( SUBST)

AF - AMB. FERGUSON

S/ S - MR. ELIOT

----- 036183

R 110039 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NY

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FOR SCHAUFLE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, US LI

SUBJECT: NIXON AFRICAN VISIT

1. AMBASSADOR GARBA CALLED AGGREY TO CLARIFY WHAT HE FEARED WAS INCORRECT REPORT NIGERIAN UN PERMREP OGBU HAD SENT TO LAGOS ON PRESIDENT NIXON' S 1973 TRAVEL PLANS. GARBA SAID OGBU REPORTED TO IYALLA THAT PRESIDENT HAD " ANNOUNCED HIS DESIRE TO VISIT NIGERIA THIS YEAR".

2. AGGREY REPLIED THAT OGBU PROBABLY HAD HEARD MISCON-STRUED VERSION OF PRESIDENT' S RECENT COMMENTS ON TWO OCCA-SIONS IN WHICH HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL AFRICAN TRIP BUT DID NOT SPECIFY ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY. FIRST WAS MARCH 13 WHITE HOUSE TEA FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE WOMEN WHEN, ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON POST, PRESIDENT SAID, " I' M GOING TO AFRICA DURING MY SECOND TERM". SECOND WAS MARCH 15 PRESS CONFERENCE. REVELANT PORTION FOLLOWS. GARBA  
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GIVEN COPY OF MARCH 15 TRANSCRIPT.

3. QUOTE Q. MR. PRESIDENT, CAN YOU TELL US YOUR TRAVEL PLANS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES DURING 1973?

A. WELL, I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT I HAD NO IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PLANS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE RECEIVED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FROM THE NSC ( NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL) FOR WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE URGENT TRAVEL, ONE TO EUROPE, BECAUSE OF OUR INTEREST IN NATO, SECOND TO LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE I HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO LATIN AMERICA, AND THIRD TO AFRICA BECAUSE I HAVE NOT TRAVELED THERE.

I DO NOT MEAN TO SUGGEST BY THAT THAT TRAVEL BY THE PRESIDENT TO THESE PLACES IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE TO FOREIGN POLICY; BUT I THINK THIS IS THE CONCERN THAT MANY OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY EXPERTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE NSC, THE CONCERN THEY HAVE. THEY FEEL THAT THE ENORMOUS INTEREST THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY GOING TO PEKING AND GOING TO MOSCOW INDICATES THAT WE DON' T CARE ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, WE DON' T CARE ABOUT OUR FRIENDS IN AFRICA, AND WE DO NOT CARE ABOUT OUR FRIENDS IN EUROPE AS WELL. INCIDENTALLY JAPAN IS ANOTHER ON THE LIST.

NOW, HOW WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK SOME OF THESE TRIPS IN, I DO NOT KNOW. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A TRIP SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER OR SHORTLY BEFORE THE SUMMER BEGINS, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET MADE A DECISION BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER THINGS ON AND THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A TRIP IN THE FALL, BUT HOW WE CAN SELECT AMONG THESE, I HAVE NOT YET DETERMINED. END QUOTE. DECLAS UPON RECEIPT. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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